



**Valencia College Foundation  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Zoom – 8:00 a.m.  
September 9, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:**

Ms. Sheri Torres, Chair  
Mr. Jeff Mock  
Mr. David Berelsman  
Ms. Pat Engfer  
Ms. Stephanie Howell

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Kathleen Plinske  
Dr. Carla McKnight  
Ms. Carlee Thomas  
Mr. Oscar Cristancho  
Mr. Bill Mallowney  
Dr. Leslie Golden  
Ms. Pamela Dorn  
Ms. Angela Mendolaro

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Torres called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Director Engfer moved to approve the meeting minutes of the April 23, 2025, and June 3, 2025, Executive Committee Meetings, as presented. Director Berelsman seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **III. President's Update**

Dr. Plinske shared that enrollment for Fall semester is the largest in the history of Valencia College. The enrollment report increased to 50,000 students and could possibly be 51,000 students. Valencia will serve 75,000 unduplicated students throughout the year.

Dr. Plinske shared the college launched a new associate in science degree in semi-conductors engineering technology and it is the first degree of its type in Florida.

Dr. Plinske introduced Dr. Carla McKnight who will serve as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Chief of Staff. In this new structure, Ms. Thomas will report to Dr. McKnight.

### **IV. Executive Director Update**

Ms. Thomas welcomed Dr. McKnight stating we are excited to work with her.

Ms. Thomas shared a PowerPoint. She noted this year's fundraising goal is \$4.25 million. We were at approximately 42 percent of goal as of Aug. 31, 2025. Currently we are at 45 percent of goal and expect to be over \$2,000,000 in a couple of weeks.

Thanks were extended to leadership, Dr. Plinske, and Chair Torres for their presentation to the Board of Directors of Dr. Phillips Charities. After the presentation we received a grant for \$600,000 which will support both our accelerated skills training programs and VCentials food markets. For the fourth year in a row, we received \$244,500 from PepsiCo Foundation. We also received \$40,000 from Bank of America and \$10,000 from The Rotary Club of Lake Buena Vista.

The Red, Black and Boundless Gala is Saturday, September 13, 2025. Ms. Thomas extended thanks to Chair Torres and the Walt Disney World team. We have grossed about \$170,000 not including expenses, there are 44 sponsors and over 500 guests.

Ms. Thomas highlighted the Foundation committees mentioning the Executive Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, and Governance Committee are all standing committees. There are two new ad hoc committees: Philanthropy Committee and Corporate Partnerships and Advocacy Committee.

### **V. Valencia College Foundation Board Meeting Preview**

Dr. McKnight shared that she is excited to serve in her new role. She shared that we want to make meetings meaningful, impactful, and ensure that board members get the information they need. The new meeting format will be a series of updates including messages from Dr. Plinske, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Cristancho and items which need to be approved like the 990 or policies so that you can make informed decisions. We will review the Strategic Plan and do a "deep dive" into the components of the Strategic Plan and a pillar will be reviewed at each board meeting.

Dr. McKnight provided a preview of the September 24, 2025 board meeting sharing the agenda and the plan for the meeting.

**VI. Thanking Board Members for Service**

Chair Torres reported we are implementing our term limits and want to recognize the individuals who are retiring from the board at the next board meeting.

Chair Torres reminded everyone the Red, Black and Boundless Gala is Saturday, September 13, 2025 at the EPCOT World ShowPlace Pavilion, the next Foundation Board Meeting is Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at the West Campus, Special Events Center (a photographer will be available).

**VII. Adjournment**

Chair Torres adjourned the meeting at 8:39 a.m.